

New Soviet law bans strikes

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet parliament passed a law Monday banning strikes in key industrial sectors of the economy by an overwhelming majority. After a long and complicated political debate the law, the first to be passed by the Supreme Soviet since its formation in the summer, replaced a resolution it approved last week empowering the government to take unspecified emergency measures to keep the economy going. The vote was 373 votes in favour to 12 against. By banning strikes in key areas, the law at the same time formally defines the right to strike in the Soviet Union. Previous legislation had stated over the issue, hitherto considered a problem endemic to capitalist society. Under the new measures strikes are banned on the railways and other public transport, in civil aviation, communications, the energy sector and defence industries and anywhere likely to endanger life or public health. Industrial enterprises in permanent production such as heavy steelworks, where a stoppage could damage equipment, are also covered by the ban.

THE UNIVERSITY OF
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DIVISION

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King heads for Canada after talks in Rome

ROME (Agencies) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor left Rome for Ottawa on a seven-day official visit to Canada at the invitation of Canada's Governor General Jeanne Sauve.

The King earlier met with Italian President Francesco Cossiga and discussed Middle East issues.

The King briefed Cossiga on the latest developments of the Palestine cause, the Lebanese question, the situation between Iraq and Iran, and the efforts exerted to attain just solutions to these issues.

King Hussein also held talks with Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti. Both leaders expressed satisfaction with the development of relations between the two countries and stressed their support for the efforts to be exerted to achieve a just and durable solution to the Palestine problem.

The King also appraised the Italian prime minister on Iraq's flexible position and sincere desire to reach a solution that pre-

serves the right of both Iraq and Iran. The King called on the two countries to resume direct negotiations and attain durable peace based on respect for sovereignty and non-interference in the affairs of each other. The King and Andreotti expressed full support for the Arab tripartite committee's endeavours to extricate Lebanon from its ordeal and restore peace.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Mudar Badran and King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh. The Italian foreign minister also attended the talks.

According to Italian officials, King Hussein voiced support for Egypt's efforts to bring Israelis and Palestinians together to discuss the Middle East peace process.

The King gave a "very positive evaluation" of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's proposals during talks with Prime Minister



The King said that improvements in East-West relations would eventually produce results in the Middle East.

After Israel's rejection, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker spoke by telephone with the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers in a bid to keep Mubarak's proposals alive.

The King told Italy, which supports Mubarak's proposals, that the international community believed there could be no Middle East solution without direct Palestinian participation in talks.

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Khath

Monday left for Canada to join the Jordanian delegation accompanying King Hussein.

Uprising enters 23rd month with more blood

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops opened fire Monday on Arabs who were marching with Palestinian flags in the West Bank Town of Nablus, killing one of the men, Arab reports said.

It was the second fatal shooting in as many days in Nablus, the West Bank's largest town, and occurred despite a army curfew imposed to confine the 120,000 residents to their homes.

Earlier Monday, three soldiers were injured when an assailant hurled a firebomb at their patrol in Nablus, the army said. One soldier suffered moderate wounds, and two light injuries, the army said.

Also Monday, a five-year-old Palestinian girl, Ulfat Nassar, was shot in the head when Israeli troops clashed with stone-throwing demonstrators in the Tulkarm refugee camp northwest of Nablus.

Doctors at Rafidya hospital in Nablus said the girl was in "extremely critical condition."

The violence came as Jews

marked "the day of atonement," with fasting and prayers.

Shops and businesses were

closed in Arab Jerusalem and in

the occupied West Bank and

Gaza Strip to mark the start of

the 23rd month of the Palestinian

uprising against Israeli occupation.

The general strike was to continue Tuesday, the fourth and final day of a series of closures called by the underground leadership of the uprising in sympathy with residents of the town of Beit Sahour.

Israeli soldiers and tax collectors have been raiding shops and homes in Beit Sahour, near Bethlehem, for more than two weeks because of an Arab boycott of taxes. Residents say that more than \$50,000 worth of furniture and machinery has been confiscated.

The Israeli army said the incidents in Nablus began when soldiers encountered several masked

Palestinians met in the town's central market Sunday night. An army spokesman, who cannot be

PLO blames U.S. for Israeli rejection of talks

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)

leaders blame the United States for the refusal of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to hold peace talks with Palestinians, the Palestinian news agency WAFA said Monday.

It said the PLO's Executive Committee and Fatah Central Committee Sunday decided that U.S. support for Israel's election plan for the occupied territories lay behind the Israeli refusal to hold direct peace talks as proposed by Egypt.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat

chaired the meeting which included Nayef Hawatmeh, secretary-general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine

and representatives of George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Arab Liberation Front, the Palestine Liberation Front of Abu Abbas and the Palestinian Communist Party.

WAFA said the meeting examined "Israel's position in the light of American sponsorship of the Shamir plan and its repercussions on the Palestinian question and the Middle East."

"I was stunned," said Bishop, who lives in Belvedere, outside San Francisco.

Varmus said he was

awakened by a radio interview

er who phoned him with the news. "I didn't know if it was a false alarm or they got my name confused, not having talked to anyone directly," he said from his home in San Francisco.

Earlier, PLO officials said the

PLO Central Council would meet in Baghdad Sunday to discuss the prospects of peace talks with Israel.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said Sunday he had high hopes for a Middle East peace initiative despite Israel's rejection of the Egyptian proposal.

"I don't think that vote on

Friday means things are dead in

the water at all," Baker said in an interview on U.S. television.

He said he had held several

telephone conversations with the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers since Friday.

Baker said he felt there was

"still some chance" an elections

proposal made by Israeli Prime

Minister Yitzhak Shamir would work.

He said the 10-point proposal

by Mubarak "was actually an

effort to move the election propos

forward."

Baker said he has discussed

specific language with Israeli

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens

and Egyptian Foreign Minister

Ahmed Esam Abdin Meguid to

move the election proposal for

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King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and

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li Faisal, have been in the

forefront of these contacts, directly to

Aoun and through Iraq and the

major Western countries.

Salam said the contacts were

going extremely well but gave no

details.

He did not elaborate but said

the deputies and the mediators

were "doing everything to make

the conference succeed."

The 37-year-old deputy, who

lives in self-imposed exile in

Geneva, declared tearfully that

"I affirm to my brothers in Leba

non that success is inevitable and

failure is forbidden."

He also said the conference

was the "opening of a door long

closed" to ending sectarianism,

a bitter disease... that has grown

out of proportion in these last

years."

Salam, prime minister several

times between the 1950s and

1970s, told a news conference:

"The idea of failure has never

occurred in me. Failure is forbid

den, all the deputies are working

hard to cooperate, understand

each other and agree."

The debate is on a "charter for

national reconciliation" prepared

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Israel faces difficulty in drawing U.S. into Mideast peace role

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's rejection of Egypt's invitation to talks with Palestinians will make it harder for the government to draw the United States into playing a leading role in Middle East peace efforts, political analysts said.

Washington hopes to keep alive a five-month-old Israeli plan for Palestinian elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. But it seems determined to avoid a repeat of previous failures in the region, like its plan for an international peace conference.

"The U.S. wants motion but it does not want the stain of failure," Doug Gold, an American foreign-policy expert at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, said Saturday.

"I think the Egyptians were initially asked to play a more active role because the U.S. did not want to bear the political cost of trying to move a difficult process along," Gold added.

Israel's inner cabinet Friday rejected Cairo's offer to stage Israeli-Palestinian talks in a vote motivated as much by domestic

political rivalries as foreign-policy concerns.

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing Likud Party, which opposed the offer, said he pleaded with Labour coalition partners not to force a vote.

He urged Labour to wait for a letter in which U.S. Secretary of State James Baker would outline a proposal for U.S.-Israeli-Egyptian talks on the make-up of the Palestinian delegation, a compromise apparently acceptable to a majority in both parties.

But the document did not arrive, raising scepticism among some cabinet members that Arens did not accurately report the contents of his meetings with Baker.

Some Israelis see the absence of the letter as a sign of Washington's reluctance to fully enter the Middle East diplomatic process.

"The Americans want to remain a broker, and they know that once they put things on paper, they are part of the process," said Itzhak Galnoor, a political-science professor at Hebrew

University.

Israeli officials said Baker spoke to Arens several times by telephone at the weekend to probe ways of advancing Israel's election plan but they were still unsure when the Baker letter would arrive.

Washington, the Jewish state's closest ally, earlier this year encouraged a diplomatic initiative by Israel, which has been battling a 21-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

The Likud-led government approved in May a plan for elections to choose Palestinian negotiators for interim self-rule.

Egypt, the only Arab state to have made peace with Israel, offered to mediate when the plan appeared to founder but made it clear that the Palestine Liberation Organisation would be consulted in choosing the Palestinian delegates.

Arens said the key advantage of Baker's proposal was that it would give Israel a role in deciding which Palestinians would participate in the pre-election talks. Israel rules out direct or indirect talks with the PLO.



A woman looks at the ruins of a building hit during the artillery duels in Beirut

Lebanese deadlock reflects clash between fears, grievances

TAIF, Saudi Arabia (R) — A deadlock in talks on Lebanon's future reflects a longstanding clash between fears of Falangists that they may be overwhelmed by the Muslim majority and a Muslim sense of injustice at Falangist domination.

Sixty-two members of the Lebanese parliament, divided equally between Christians and Muslims, have been meeting in the quiet of the Saudi resort of Taif for nine days trying to work out a peace agreement to end 14 years of civil war.

But they have had to suspend their formal talks while Arab mediators attempt to persuade Maronite military leader Michel Aoun, sitting tight in his bomb-smashed bunker in east Beirut, to accept their blueprint for a stable Lebanon.

The dispute at Taif is over the linkage between demands by the opposition for reforms giving them more political clout and the insistence by Falangists that Syria's troops must go home first.

Diplomats said Moroccan-Algerian relations were unlikely to be damaged by the latest fighting as both countries were keenly aware that their long-term interests lay in entente.

Since signing the Arab Maghreb Union treaty which forbids any state from harbouring groups which attack another member, Algeria has been careful not to allow the Polisario to launch attacks directly from its territory.

Lebanon's Christian community, and especially the majority Maronites, a Catholic sect, are unusual in the Middle East in that they were cohesive enough historically to aspire to political power in an ocean of Muslims.

With the support of French colonial authorities, they carved the state of greater Lebanon out of the pre-World War I Ottoman province of Syria in the belief that they could hang on to the highest offices in the new state indefinitely.

An informal arrangement gave them 55 per cent of the seats in parliament and exclusive rights to the presidency, the command of the army and other key positions.

But a higher birth rate among Muslims and faster emigration by Christians, coupled with the awakening of Arab nationalist sentiments among Muslims, began to strain the system from the 1950s onwards.

The old pre-war (1975) regime was a regime of privilege based on sect, in which the sects were not equal," leftist deputy Zahi Al Khatib said Sunday.

Palestinian guerrillas who moved into Lebanon in force in the early 1970s found ready allies among the aggrieved opposition youth of the Falangist dominated areas.

Right-wing Falangists, afraid of submerging into a sea of radicalism, launched a preemptive strike in 1975 and the civil war was on.

The key words at the Taif talks are reform and sovereignty, enshrined in the headings in the Arab League-sponsored "charter for national reconciliation." It is the interplay between the two which dominates the debate.

Reform means dismantling the system of Falangist domination and eventually eradicating religious affiliation as a factor in Lebanese politics.

Sovereignty, the more controversial of the two, reflects the different views which the two communities have of Syria, the powerful neighbour which controls Lebanon's land access to the Arab World.

"In Lebanon there's disagreement on the meaning of words, there's disagreement on the meaning of sovereignty, on everything," Georges Saadeh said.

For many in the opposition, Syria is a "sister Arab country" and, for reasons of history and geography, a special relationship with Damascus is natural and inevitable.

But most Falangists have come to see Syria as a rapacious and aggressive neighbour, occupying Lebanese territory illegally and scheming to annex the country when the time is right.

For them, sovereignty is absolute and it means the pullout of Syria's 33,000 troops, an end to Syria support for the opposition militias and the right to treat Damascus as an equal partner.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Garang asks states to work for peace

DAR ES SALAAM (R) — Sudanese rebel leader John Garang said Monday he had asked southern Africa's frontline states to mediate in his country's six-year civil war. "I have asked them to make Khartoum see sense. I have asked them to approach Khartoum and present our views," he told Reuters after meeting Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinyi. Garang, head of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), earlier visited Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe. These four states, together with Tanzania and Angola, form the frontline states spearheading black Africa's opposition to white-ruled South Africa. Garang, fighting since 1983 to end what the SPLA regards as domination of mainly Christian and animist south Sudan by the Muslim Arab north, said the leaders of the five states he had visited supported an SPLA peace plan. The SPLA wants a new broad-based government, creation of a new army, a national conference to work out the country's future and general elections.

Denktash leaves for talks at U.N.

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash left for New York Monday for talks with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on stalled negotiations for the unification of Cyprus. "There is no crisis in Cyprus but a difficulty created by the Greek Cypriots. It will be removed when they agree to the conditions of a federation," Denktash told reporters at Istanbul airport before his departure. "I am going to New York with good will. But it will never turn Cyprus into a Greek Cypriot island," Denktash said. Denktash, leader of the breakaway "Turkish Republic of North Cyprus" since 1983, has just completed visits to Libya, Austria, Switzerland and West Germany to seek support for his demand for a federation with equal rights for both communities. U.N. sponsored unification talks between Denktash and Cypriot President George Vassiliou have been stalled since Denktash rejected in June a set of U.N. proposals and said direct talks must continue.

Kurdish refugee sets himself on fire

LONDON (AP) — A Kurdish refugee has died in a London hospital three days after setting fire to himself upon being told he would be sent back to Turkey. Shio Iyiguen, 26, and fellow Kurdish refugee Dogan Arslan, 23, set themselves alight at a detention centre near London's Heathrow Airport Thursday. Iyiguen suffered burns over 60 per cent of his body, said Mount Vernon Hospital, where he died. Arslan was in Stoke Mandeville Hospital in critical condition. Refugee claimed he had been beaten by Muslim fundamentalists in his home village.

Moderate quake jolts Iranian city

NICOSIA (AP) — A moderate earthquake measuring 4.2 on the Richter Scale shook the Caspian Sea city of Rasht Sunday, Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said. No casualties or damage were reported. The agency, in a dispatch monitored in Cyprus, said the epicentre of the 5:43 p.m. (1413 GMT) quake was 135 miles (220 kilometres) northwest of Tehran. It provided no further details. It was the second quake reported in Iran this month. On Oct. 1, a quake measuring 5.1 on the Richter Scale caused landslides that destroyed 300 houses around the south western city of Sisakht. No casualties were reported at the time. The Richter Scale is a gauge of the energy released by an earthquake, as measured by the ground motion recorded on a seismograph. A quake of magnitude 4 can cause moderate damage, while magnitude 5 can cause considerable damage.

Syria, Libya discuss cooperation

DAMASCUS (R) — A top Libyan envoy held talks in Damascus Sunday with Syrian Defence Minister Major-General Mustafa Tlas on ways to promote cooperation between the Syrian and Libyan armies, officials said. They said Major-General Hikmat Shihabi, chief of staff of the Syrian Armed Forces, was also present at Tla's meeting with Major Khaweldi Hamidi, third in command in Libya's revolutionary leadership. Hamidi later delivered a message to President Hafez Al Assad from Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi dealing with developments in the Arab World. Officials gave no further details about the contents of the message but said Assad gave Hamidi a reply. Hamidi said on arrival in Damascus Saturday that he would discuss how to increase cooperation between Libya and Syria on "strategic action in all fields."

Paper calls for wider Lebanon peace talks

NICOSIA (R) — A Qatari newspaper Monday called for a conference of Lebanon's political and military leaders, saying parliamentarians now holding talks probably did not have enough power to bring about peace. "The deputies' meeting is but one step on the road to peace," Al Arab said. "It might not be enough if it is not complemented with more important measures, such as a conference that brings together the leaders of political factions and militias, who hold the decision on war and peace," the paper said.

The legislators discussing political reforms and a proposed Syrian troop pullout in slow-moving talks in Taif, Saudi Arabia, have very limited authority, the paper said. King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, a member of an Arab League peace committee, has written to Lebanese military leader General Michel Aoun and his rival

prime minister Selim Hoss, as well as other Arab leaders, to try to save the talks.

Oman seeks drums of toxic chemicals

MUSCAT (AP) — Air force helicopters and navy patrols on Sunday joined in an air and sea search for drums of a toxic chemical leaking off Oman in the Arabian Sea. An environment ministry spokesman said 11 barrels of inflammable vinyl acetate monomer had so far been washed ashore on the coast of the Musandam peninsula. Oman's northernmost province separated from the rest of the sultanate by part of the United Arab Emirates. A large number of barrels containing the same chemical had already been reported off the UAE coast, the spokesman said.

U.N. vote, Polisario splits seen behind Sahara fighting



King Hassan

RABAT (R) — Divisions among Polisario guerrillas and an imminent vote in the United Nations are the main reasons behind the biggest and fiercest battle in disputed Western Sahara for more than a year, diplomatic sources have said.

Morocco and its Polisario foes fighting for the independence of the former Spanish colony, administered by Morocco, both reported a major attack early Saturday on Moroccan defence lines near the Mauritanian border.

King Hassan immediately responded by saying he was calling off a planned second round of direct peace talks with the Algerian-backed guerrillas.

Diplomats in Rabat said they thought the king was manoeuvring to discredit the Polisario ahead of the annual U.N. General Assembly vote on the conflict.

They also said the Polisario was keen to show it was still a force in the region, despite an 18-month period which has seen the end of years of bitter rivalry between Libya, Algeria and Morocco.

Past Western Saharan resolutions at the United Nations have called for direct negotiations between the belligerents before a U.N.-sponsored self-determination referendum. Spain ceded its colony to Morocco in 1976, but the subject of sovereignty was not addressed.

A Polisario communiqué, carried by the Algerian News Agency (APS), described Saturday's five-hour battle at the mountainous town of Guelta Zemmour as one of "murderous violence."

It said several Moroccans were killed or wounded and many were captured, but gave no further details.

A later despatch from the Moroccan News Agency MAP said 14 Moroccan soldiers, including one colonel, were killed and 31 wounded. MAP said 80 guerrillas were killed or wounded.

King Hassan received a Polisario delegation at his palace in Marrakesh last January for the first direct talks in 13 years of war, but has since adopted a wait-and-see game approach.

MAP reported earlier that the king agreed in September to a second meeting with the Polisario

during talks in Tripoli with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and following a similar request from U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The two leaders were in Tripoli to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 1 revolution which brought Muammar Qaddafi to power in Libya.

Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia joined forces in February to set up the Arab Maghreb Union — intended as a North African equivalent of the European Community.

Many analysts said the accord spelled the end of Polisario as a military force as Algeria would be increasingly unlikely to risk allowing attacks on its neighbour Morocco to upset hard-won regional rapprochement.

"It sounds like we're on the front line,"

"Either that was a short round or the (Mujahideen) are a lot closer than we thought," said one veteran foreign correspondent.

She meant either a government battery was short of target, or — unlikely — that Mujahideen guerrillas had come down from the dusty hills that ring Kabul to launch rockets early.

Daily rocket hits, Kalashnikov rifles clattering in the night, an unending boom from government artillery, have created a climate of numbed fear in the capital.

A dozen rebel rockets a day,

on average, fall on the city of around two million people, government officials said.

The airport is a favourite target. So is Khairkhana suburb, where the government has an ammunition depot, a missile battery and its main grain silo.

The rocket heard screaming over the U.N. club smashed into a shop in Kabul's main Pulikeshi market, killing 20 people and wounding 45.

A trader shouted hysterically that his child had been killed.

He had gone to pray in the mosque and left the child sleeping in the shop.

An older woman, told there was an American reporter at the scene, said to him in English: "Your government is very naughty, please tell them to stop killing us with rockets."

The United States and Pakistan are the main backers of the Mujahideen guerrillas fighting President Najibullah's Soviet-backed Afghan government.

Minutes later a team from the United Nations goods office mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan arrived to take pictures and hear the Afghan government's version of the rocket

pullout was one of the mission's three tasks. It was also supposed to check whether Pakistan was interfering on behalf of the guerrillas and oversee the repatriation of five million Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran.

Monitoring the pullout was the mission's first task. It was also supposed to check whether Pakistan was interfering on behalf of the guerrillas and oversee the repatriation of five million Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran.

"People think we're U.N. observers here," one officer said. "We're not. We're more like diplomats."

Their mandate ends on Nov. 15, with a two-month extension until Jan. 15 to wind up operations.

Team members spend six weeks in Afghanistan before going to Pakistan for a similar period to hear complaints from both sides of the border.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

HOSPITALS

DEPARTURES

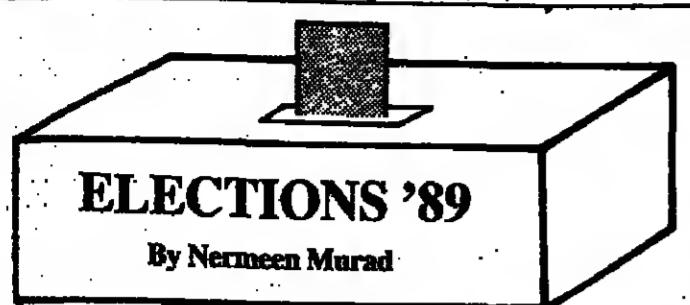
ARRIVALS

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

Other Flights (Terminal 1)

Market Prices

	Upper/lower price in £ per kg.
Apple (golden)	420 / 380
Apple (red)	550 / 500
Banana (Musa)	400 / 350
Beans (Marrow)	350 / 300
Beans (Peas)	300 / 250
Beets	400 / 350
Cabbage	160 / 120
Carrot	320 / 280
Cauliflower	230 / 180



ELECTIONS '89

By Nermene Murad

THE SCENARIO is simple: A very enthusiastic election freak invites a large number of voters to his home to meet with the "ideal candidate." A date and a time is set. Voters arrive, but the candidate never shows up. The voters get very upset and unanimously agree that they will not vote for a candidate who cannot abide by the simplest rule of responsibility. So far one cannot complain. But the catch is that the enthusiastic freak is in fact working for a rival candidate and the "invited" candidate was never informed of the meeting.

A very well known candidate is faced with an incredible story of "malice." Apparently, another person in his family with whom he has had a long history of personal feuds carries the same first and last name and has decided to run in the same constituency. The idea is that people voting for the renowned candidate would only write the first and last name on the ballot card which would later create a dilemma as to whom the voter really cast his/her vote, and the ballot would be deemed null and void. A cheap shot.

Another widely used form of ruining rival candidate's chances for success is to spread a rumour that the candidate has made a brave decision to bow out of the race. Several candidates are now finding it necessary to advertise in newspapers that they are still in the race.

A candidate has been pursuing "official means" or "any law" to evoke the candidacy of competing candidates. Appreciation is in order for the officials who have turned out this gentlemen and reiterated the government's position "not to interfere in the elections."

A human instrument whose main function is to discredit as many candidates as possible is running loose in open debates, closed debates and mini-meetings in candidates' homes. If you are a candidate look for this person in the frontseats.

On the other hand, candidates who are rich in thoughts and nationalism but are poor financially are finding supporters to help them along the way.

A wonderful elderly man babbles words of wisdom and idealism at every meeting with candidates. The "sheikh," as he became to be known claims that he is trying to revive a political party from the fifties. Investigations have shown that his party enjoyed the membership of the "sheikh" and only the "sheikh," even in the fifties.

The campaign of a kind-oriented candidate falls under the logo of "reconstructing the Jordanian family and creating man." The candidate says that politics will not be mentioned in the campaign because "political policies will not be made through parliament or any other establishment."

Many many candidates promise that they will support the agricultural products of the West Bank and will demand that West Bank produce be imported to Jordan. "If we do not have consumers for any particular product in Jordan then we should market it outside through Jordan; it is our duty," says a candidate representing a Jordanian tribe.

One candidate says that those who do not vote or "waste their votes are practicing the epitome of treason."

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

LAWZI RECEIVES ENVOYS: Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi Monday received separately United Arab Emirates Ambassador Abdallah Mohammad Al Shurafa and British Ambassador Anthony Reeve. The discussions dealt with bilateral relations in parliamentary fields. (Petra)

INNAE, FRENCH ENVOY HOLD TALKS: Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Innae Monday discussed with French Ambassador to Jordan Dennis Bouchard means to develop economic and trade relations. (Petra)

IZZEDDIN MEETS URUGUAY ENVOY: Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Foreign Minister Ibrahim Izzeddin Monday discussed with the non-resident Ambassador of Uruguay means to develop bilateral relations in all fields. (Petra)

FORENSIC MEDICINE: Minister of Health and Social Development Dr. Zubair Malhas Monday discussed with the director of the Iraqi Forensic Medicine Institute, Dr. Nadir Al Dymy, cooperation in forensic medicine, exchange of expertise in this field, and standardization of terms forensic doctors use. They also reviewed the role played by forensic medicine in the two countries in combating crime. Later, Dymy visited the Public Security Department's (PSD) Criminal Investigation Department as well as Drug and Forgery Control Department.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- An exhibition of watercolours on Jordan by Salma Kassam at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- An exhibition of Islamic scripts at Jordan National Gallery for Fine Arts.
- An exhibition marking the 1st centennial of the Eiffel Tower displaying photographs, drawings and pictures demonstrating the tower in all its aspects at the French Cultural Centre.
- An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Omar Roust at Alia Art Gallery.
- An art exhibition entitled "Multiples Regards" displaying lithographs of Picasso, Matisse, Miró, Braque, Cézanne and Le Corbusier, at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILMS

- A German film entitled "Der Kleine Staatsanwalt" (the Little Attorney), English subtitled, at the Goethe Institute — 8:30 p.m.
- A film on Michael Jackson, Moonwalker, at the American Centre — 7:30 p.m.

Third charity march to be held on Nov. 17

AMMAN (I.T.) — Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, the third charity march will be held Friday, Nov. 17, 1989, with the participation of members of the Royal Family as well as a large number of members of the diplomatic corps, national companies and institutions, universities, colleges, and schools.

The march will start from the Plaza Hotel and end at Al Hamra Farm via Queen Alia International Airport highway covering a distance of twenty-five

kilometres.

Prizes and certificates will be given to the participants.

This march will be organized by the Society for the Care of Neurological Patients based at the Palestine Hospital, and Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of Physically Handicapped, the president of which is Her Highness Princess Majida Ra'd, with the cooperation of the Bank of Jordan, Plaza Hotel, and Al Ghadeer Mineral Water Company.

UDD signs agreement with local company

AMMAN (Petra) — The Urban Development Department (UDD) Monday signed a JD 285,000 agreement with a local contracting company, whereby the company will construct 57 stores, parcellate 14 residential plots and carry out all the necessary sewerage and water networks, walls and construct pathways.

UDD Director Hishma Al Zagha said that the stores will be constructed in Um Nuwwara and Marka (Nagab) housing estates, which form part of the second (UDD) project. The project is aimed at providing proper housing for the low-income cate-

gories.

Zagha said the Marka project has been completed and called on those wishing to benefit from this project to call at the department.

However, he noted, Um Nuwwara project is still under construction and will be completed before the end of this year.

Zagha pointed out that the department has completed all the infrastructure work and has provided all the social service centres in these two housing projects.

The agreement was signed by Zagha, on behalf of UDD, and the director of the construction company.

Civil defence director leaves for China today

AMMAN (Petra) — Civil Defence Department Director and Chairman of the International Organisation for Civilian Protection (IOCP) executive council Lieutenant General Khaled Al Tarawneh will leave for China Tuesday at the invitation of the Chinese Ministry of Social Affairs.

In a statement to Jordan News Agency, Petra, Tarawneh said the visit is designed to discuss with Chinese officials China's re-

quest to join the Geneva-based IOCP and follow up China's achievements in the field of protection against disasters and rescue operations.

Noting that IOCP helps member countries develop their civil defence equipment and training programmes, Tarawneh said Jordan was entrusted with the duty of helping Mauritania and Sudan build civil defence systems capable of dealing with disasters and emergency conditions.

NAF gives JD 11,040 for income-generating projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Aid Fund provided JD 11,040 in September to 13 hardship cases, to enable them set up their own income generating projects, thus bringing to 61 the number of self-help projects financed by the fund, since the beginning of this year.

Each eligible case receives a maximum of JD 3,000 to set up its own income generating business, depending on the findings of a comprehensive economic and social survey.

Thirty-five per cent of the sum is in the form of aid.

Jordanian-Palestinian ties — the core and the evolution

By Nermene Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The two men have held important public posts in the government and dealt with the future of Jordanians on the local scene and abroad. A foreign minister and an interior minister presented and debated Sunday their assessments of the development of Jordanian-Palestinian relations and the effects of policies and measures on the Jordanian people in view of the bi-origins of the Kingdom's populations.

This first stage, according to Masri, ended in 1948 when a Jewish state was established in Palestine and a whole population was removed from its land and thrown into refugee camps which did not offer the basic foundations for decent living. This again escalated the tension and the sense of instability among Palestinians.

Masri pointed out to the period between 1948 and 1967, when the West Bank was under Jordanian rule, "a sense of unity between the two banks was established and the Palestinians in Jordan began to feel safe and secure."

The third stage, between 1967 and 1974, was described by Masri as a stage of "mutual fear (Jordanian and Palestinian)." This stage, according to Masri, witnessed the evolution of the Palestinian national feeling which culminated in the Palestinians beginning to assume control of their destiny through the Rabat Arab summit resolutions.

From 1974 until the signing of the Camp David Accords in 1979 "there was a new stage in the relationship between the two nations which indicated a positive and correct route although there were remnants of tension."

Since 1974, Masri said, "there have been plans and efforts to find a form for the relationship between the two sides." The basic factor in this relationship is a common feeling and agreement that this is "a strategic relationship which cannot be separated in any real terms."

In his own experience as foreign minister of Jordan, Masri felt that "the Jordanian government was building its political philosophy on the basis that the Palestinians and the Jordanians are the most important elements in the Palestinian issue and if there was agreement between the two sides then there will be a chance for building an Arab agreement."

If this Arab agreement was reached, according to Masri, then the Arab World could go to the rest of the world and say, "we have agreed on something and we want an international peace conference."

This brought about "a series of

stability among Palestinians." Masri added that this declaration was followed by Jewish emigration into the land which resulted in conflicts and open clashes between Palestinians and Jews.

Masri concluded that the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship "is an eternal and integral relationship that cannot be separated regardless of the developments which would have to culminate in at least a confederation between the two sides after the liberation of the occupied lands."

Taher Al Masri

Masri, who opened his presentation by pointing to the sensitivity of the issue, said that his argument would "come from my heart." He divided the development of the Palestinian problem and its relationship with Jordan into four stages, beginning at the onset of the 20th century, at around 1917 until today following Jordan's decision to sever administrative and legal ties with the West Bank.

Masri highlighted the Palestinian sense of insecurity and search for stability, which, he said, began with the Balfour Declaration in 1917, "when a series of forces and difficult situations affected a people who until now were living on their land and enjoying a high level of education."

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The Nassar Movement, which enjoyed great public support, contributed to the rift between the Palestinians and Jordanians since Abd al Nasser continuously attacked Arab leaders until the 1967 war when he recognized the need to reconcile with the reality of the Arab countries around him.

The 1967 war was followed by a period during which the Palestinian

struggle was taking a more organized and self-dependent form "and chose Jordan as a starting point for its struggle, and we in Jordan welcomed this move."

But the negative aspect of this contact between the Palestinians and Jordanians was "the large numbers of armed men in the cities and villages. There was contact and then a clash. Until things turned out the way they did."

The outcome of these factors, according to Arar, resulted in:

— Growing regional Palestinian sentiments for the first time. The Palestinian people are Arabs who sing the achievements of Arab and cannot be separated. The leadership was unable to coordinate this Arab sentiment with the need to highlight the Palestinian identity as a necessary step to prevent dismantling the Palestinian identity. The Palestinian leadership was also unaware of the Jordanian people's feelings and based its actions on the Egyptian media which were hostile to Jordan at that time.

— Jordanian sentiments grew calling for a Jordanian identity. This sentiment was not deep-rooted and did not apply practically when it came to inter-marriage and intercultural interaction. This feeling was used by the enemy by posing projects such as "an alternate land for Palestinians in Jordan."

But, according to Arar, "the dignity of the Jordanians and the awareness of the Palestinians were always able to quickly ignore these malicious foreign projects."

Arar explained that there were other factors which surfaced at that period which also contributed to a rift between Palestinians and Jordanians.

According to Arar these factors included:

— The Palestinian apathy in government jobs in Jordan which led to a growing number of Palestinians looking for jobs in the Gulf countries; consequently, the Palestinian presence in these jobs was low.

— The larger Jordanian presence in government jobs led to what Arar described as a feeling among Jordanians that "we are the sons of this land and we should have priority in public life."

According to a study conducted by Zachariah Mahadeen, a

Regent attends military exercises

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Monday watched the military exercises carried out by a number of armed forces formations, as part of its annual training programme.

The exercises included shooting with live ammunition and air raids by fighters and helicopters which hit selected targets with precision.

At the end of the exercise, Prince Hassan toured the various training sites, where he met with participants and

thanked them for their efforts.

Prince Hassan was accompanied by the Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Talib.

Watching the exercises were Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein,

Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein, assistants of the chief of staff, the Royal Jordanian Air Force commander, the Armed Forces inspector general, senior Armed Forces officers and military delegations from a number of Arab and friendly countries.



HRH Crown Prince Hassan

23rd Jordanian medical team leaves for Sudan

AMMAN (Petra) — Health and Social Development Minister Zuhair Malhas Monday stood in for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, who is also chairman of the National Jordanian Committee for Solidarity with Sudan, in bidding farewell to the 23rd Jordanian medical team, which left for Sudan Monday.

The team includes 15 doctors, including surgeons, ophtalmic and internists, in addition to a number of nurses and pharmacists.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the committee Rapporteur, Abdil Salam Al Abbadi, said that the Jordanian medical committees are financed through two sources, the JD 700,000 contributions made by the Jordanian public and the external grants, including the \$2 million, donated by the Islamic

Development Bank (IDB) to finance the installation of two electricity grids and water system in Al Kas city, and to establish a telecommunication system between the civilian airports to the western parts of Sudan.

The Jordanian public's contributions were used to finance the costs of the Jordanian medical teams, cover the prices of drugs and medical supplies and to refurbish Al Kas Hospital, in addition to financing costs of the vaccines and providing in-kind

paper presented by Salwa Madadah, head of the Ministry of Education's private schools and kindergartens section. The paper dealt with the various obstacles facing the kindergartens, including the legislative, social, technical and administrative difficulties.

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The order of the day

IT IS most unfortunate that the Christian and Muslim Lebanese parliamentarians meeting in Taif are at loggerheads, with religion dividing them all the way across the line. There was some initial hope that the "old timers", who ruled Lebanon in the past and were able to achieve harmony and tolerance in Lebanon's golden era, would have their better sense prevail over the ongoing deliberations in Taif. Now it seems the old parliamentarians still want to retain the sectarian division that has torn Lebanon apart from one limb to the other. This is indeed sad and reckless. As His Majesty King Hussein has cautioned in his Saturday address to the nation, the worst thing that could happen to the Arab World is to succeed in portraying the Lebanese conflict as a religious war between the Muslims and Christians.

It must be noted in this context that the seeds of religious rivalries were sown in Lebanon many decades ago and date back to its independence. Having institutionalised the religion factor in Lebanon's political infrastructure right from the word go, it was inevitable that the Lebanese would end up being divided on religious and sectarian basis. Accordingly, there is a big lesson for the rest of the Arab countries in the Lebanese case history. To begin with, religious differences should never be allowed to take root and become institutionalised. Secondly, religious tolerance must be preached to the young ones in the Arab World lest they become blind fanatics who entertain only hate and ignorance against other religions. Must we remind ourselves that the bloodiest wars humanity had ever waged were religious ones? It is one thing to champion one's faith and quite another to be intolerant of others. As clearly stated in Islam, "you have your religion and I have mine." This suggests that one must be tolerant of other faiths with which he may disagree. In this vein it is incumbent on schools especially at the elementary level to nurture such a mature view of religious differences especially if Arabs whether Muslims or Christians seek to live together in harmony as fellow citizens. To what extent religious curricula in Jordan and other Arab countries reflect this aspiration is an open question that has yet to be answered. Otherwise, what has happened and is still happening in Lebanon could be repeated in other Arab countries. His Majesty King Hussein's admonitions against religious intolerance must therefore be the order of the day everywhere in the Arab World.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

JORDANIAN Arabic dailies commented Monday for the second running day on the contents of King Hussein's address to the nation in which he tackled the parliamentary elections due to take place in November.

Al Ra'i Arabic daily noted that the King has invited the Jordanian people, both voters and candidates in the coming elections, to join efforts to make democratic parliamentary rule a success in Jordan. Jordanian people enjoy a great deal of awareness and all have a sense of national belonging and therefore the coming elections are bound to reflect such attitude, the paper said. There can be no alternative to total commitment to the Jordanian constitution which serves as a basis for all democratic activities and processes conducted by the legislative authorities, the paper added. The King's call on the Jordanian citizens to exercise democracy and to take part in the coming elections, added Al Ra'i, is a call for total commitment to the constitution in which all citizens take pride.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily discusses the rapprochement between Syria and the PLO in the light of the recent behind-the-scenes contacts. Mahmoud Rimawi says now that Syria is showing less involvement in the Lebanon crisis it has more time to return to the Arab-Israeli issue and can resume its political and pan-Arab activities. There is need for a healing of rifts between the two sides and the time is ripe for a resumption of fruitful and normal relationship which can benefit the whole Arab World, Rimawi adds. No-one can guess now the outcome of Syria's own policies towards Cairo and the PLO in the light of the recent development and Egypt's 10-point peace plan but one can see that a resumption of contacts between Damascus and the PLO leadership can pave the way for an improvement in relations, the writer notes. Indeed such rapprochement is essential now if a lasting settlement is to be found for both the Lebanese and Palestinian questions because both parties are important for the coming stage, Rimawi points out. He says that a minimum level of understanding on basic issues is a must and can boost the ongoing efforts to end all differences between Syria on the one hand and Iraq and Egypt on the other.

Al Dostour discussed the King's address to the nation in which he urged the voters and the candidates in the coming elections to shoulder responsibility towards their country. King Hussein referred to his speech to civil forces acting in the darkness and warned of conspiracies hatched by the enemies of the Arab Nation and directed against the national unity. He also referred to the events of the past two decades and dwelt in detail on the situation in Lebanon where the civil forces are trying to draw a wedge in the Arab ranks presenting the strife as a Christian Islamic struggle, the paper noted. The paper assailed those trying to exploit religion to attain their objectives and described them as elements trying to harm the Arab position vis-a-vis Israel and its occupation of holy places.

New options open up in the German Question

By Dieter Schroder

THE comeback staged by the issue known as the "German Question" has come as a surprise mainly to the Germans themselves. Unlike neighbouring countries, which have remained mistrustful, they had imagined matters were more or less settled.

Since Willy Brandt's triumphant visit to Erfurt on 19 March 1970, Deutschland-politik has been based on two axioms:

• the existence of two German states as a cornerstone of the European peace system and

• the formula, coined by Herr Brandt's adviser Egon Bahr, of "change by rapprochement".

This policy was served by Herr Brandt's de facto recognition of East Germany, which was intended to mark the end of the loss of unity and of Cold War confrontation.

In return for this recognition, including acceptance of its social system, the East German authorities were expected to grant "human easements".

This policy went on to form the basis of the Helsinki process. It has, by and large, been a success.

Change may not have lived up to expectations in the German Democratic Republic (GDR). In a last show of strength the ageing GDR leaders have stemmed the tide and even reversed it.

Yet the degree of "human

easements," however unsatisfactory, was sufficient justification for the Christian Democrats to take over and continue a policy framed by a Social Democratic chancellor.

Even so, it is a policy that has been overtaken by its own success, as it were, a success that cannot be attributed solely to the policy of "small steps," or gradual progress, or to the ideal impetus provided by the Helsinki Final Act.

The crucial boost was given by Mikhail Gorbachev with his perestroika and abandonment of the Brezhnev Doctrine.

Were it not for these developments, the question, whether what is possible in Poland and Hungary might not be possible in the GDR too, would hardly arise.

The Helsinki process was beset from the outset by doubts whether the peoples of Eastern Europe would accept in the long term a fairly permeable but nonetheless clear commitment to Europe's post-war borders.

If trends in Eastern Europe are any guide, Helsinki was an improvement, but it didn't go far enough. Nations want more than easements, they want freedom.

The same goes for people in the GDR. Each and every easement triggers a desire for greater freedom of movement, political freedom and the right to say in how one's life is run.

The refugees, Hungary's be-

haviour towards them and the East Berlin regime's stubborn reaction have boosted suspicions from several quarters that the Helsinki process has reached the end of a phase.

Nothing demonstrates this more clearly than the debate in the SPD about the Social Democrats' Deutschland-politik. The SPD finds it hard to part company with the Erfurt categories, yet it is well on the way towards doing so.

Willy Brandt himself has said so clearly. "The small steps policy has proved its worth, but developments are now progressing beyond it," he says.

What is more: "It will surely not be possible to separate for all time what belongs together."

Leading Social Democrats

Hans-Eckhart Vogel have already gone further in the sense Herr Brandt meant by saying priority must be given to talks with the churches and with opposition groups in the GDR rather than to contacts with the ruling party.

The SPD has gone far beyond the joint paper it and the East German ruling party signed in calling for reforms in the GDR.

The German Question must inevitably recur in any such debate, especially when, as Herr Brandt's comments show, he for one is opposed to setting aside the right of self-determination.

Were we not to want to discuss it, our neighbours would force us to do so. They have never believed that the German Question was settled after the 1970 intra-German Erfurt summit.

They have always feared that Ostpolitik implied a desire for German unity, and they find it easier than we do to believe that the GDR too is a fact.

In existence as a separate state is based on two factors: the guarantee of its existence by the international community and the acceptance of it by its own people.

No change need be expected on the first point. The balance of power is unlikely to swing so fundamentally in the foreseeable future as to make it possible to call the GDR's existence into question.

Yet the GDR equally clearly lacks a separate nation, and the more stubborn its leaders are, the more they will forfeit any claim it might have to legitimacy. We can't even help them by dispensing with our "obligation to take care of fellow-countrymen" and sending refugees back. The regime must come to terms with GDR citizens itself.

In a provocative rejection of the New Forum as seditious jeopardises stability by driving the opposition further away from the state. It is also a slap in the face for forces within the ruling party that might be prepared to embark on reforms. The party's hostility towards reform is most provoking; it prompts one to intervene

worry about confederations and the like.

We must work on the basis of

two facts: that the ruling party in the GDR might like to embark on reforms but is unable to do so and that the GDR too is a fact.

In existence as a separate state is based on two factors: the guarantee of its existence by the international community and the acceptance of it by its own people.

Even so, it is hard to frame a policy that will mainly back the forces that are in favour of reform. Distance will be needed inasmuch as these forces must not be laid open to suspicions of collusion with "enemies of the people".

What shape can the new development, the priorities of

Deutschland-politik, take? For one, the demand for the right of self-determination for people in the GDR must be kept permanently on the agenda. What becomes of it must, as Mr. Gorbachev says, be left for history to decide.

No-one need have any fears in this respect. The Germans will not be alone in deciding the outcome of the German Question, not even if a greater degree of freedom were to come about in the GDR.

But no-one, and least of all the ruling party in East Berlin, can stop the German Question from being more open now than it has been for the past 40 years — *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, Munich.

HOW DOES BRITISH CHURCHES' PUNKS GRAB YOU, ARCHBISHOP?



Dr. Runcie and Britain's new Pharisees

DR. RUNCIE in some of the most forthright criticisms he has made of British society in the Thatcher era, has warned of a new breed of Pharisee motivated by greed and self-interest. He gives his views in an interview published in Director, the monthly magazine of the Institute of Directors.

"I believe of course in wealth creation — that's necessary if we are going to do all the things that we ought to be doing for our society in our privileged position in the world. It enables us also to give leadership in other parts of the world for good causes. But there is no automatic connection between wealth creation and ethics, which is bound sometimes to be at a variance with a highly individualistic approach.

"We are individuals but together we go to make up a community... and it is when we put our competitive demands before the needs of others that the structures of community life break up. The Church of England maintains its presence and ministry in every parish in the land. It continues to be in daily contact with those areas in which the Conservative Party has little support. This makes the Church sensitive to the needs of those areas and that section of the

population which has not benefited from the last 10 years of Conservative government."

He maintains that the popular press has exaggerated tensions between church and government but adds: "Of course there are some differences between us. The present government supports a view of society in which an individual's rights and duties are enhanced. That is part of the Christian ethic, but the Church always balances this with its understanding of Christians belonging to one another and making up the body of Christ. That gives us a corporate dimension to our faith and ethics, which is bound sometimes to be at a variance with a highly individualistic approach.

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"We are individuals but together we go to

Presenting a new Arab image

Anyone who has travelled to Europe and the United States and read the local papers there has noticed the lack of objective reporting on issues dealing with the Middle East. The inability to garner media support for issues important to Arabs is part of the reason for the lack of success in achieving Arab aspirations, be they a state for the Palestinians, arms purchases, or financial aid. The inaccurate images of Arabs and what they stand for, that is prevalent in the Western media, is partly due to the fact that the Arab World did not grasp the importance of the international media and to what extent it could affect issues that affect Arab lives. In this interview, Amir Taheri, a leading international journalist, proposes solutions that would improve the Arab image abroad and ways in which the Arabs could effectively present their side of the story in the international media. Amir Taheri, editor in chief of *Kayhan*, Iran's largest daily newspaper, between 1973 and 1979, has since worked for a variety of newspapers including *The Sunday Times*, the *International Herald Tribune* and *Jeune Afrique*. He has interviewed many of the world's leading statesmen and women and his articles have appeared in the *Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *Guardian Weekly*, among other papers. He also writes in French and German and his articles have appeared in leading European papers, including *Le Monde* and *Die Welt*. In this interview he discusses Iran, problems of the press during the reign of the Shah, and future trends in the international media.

By Faiza S. Ambah

Q. You're one of the very few Middle Eastern, Muslim journalists who has been published in leading American and European newspapers. Why aren't more journalists like yourself writing for international papers?

A. The trouble these journalists have is not that they lack talent. They are talented, educated, and experienced. Their problem often lies elsewhere. They are not able to write what is on their minds and if you don't write freely and professionally then you cannot write for the major newspapers in the world. It's not possible for a journalist to write an honest article for *Le Monde* for example, and then go back home. I wouldn't have been able to write as I have if planned to go back. The problem of the journalist is the stifling atmosphere and lack of liberty that exists in our society. I left because I couldn't work as a journalist anymore. Had I been able to continue working as a journalist, I would have stayed.

Q. How did your personal life change after the revolution?

A. I lost my work and my profession which I loved: The whole scenery changed. People became aggressive and unsure of themselves. An atmosphere of distrust, suspicion and rumour-mongering came into being.

Q. What do you see down the road for Iran?

A. Parliamentary elections in December would allow new groups to enter parliament. That would hopefully allow a majority to emerge. It's been eight years that the government has not been able to pass any major law, for lack of a majority. When a majority emerges, the government can decide policies and have parliament approve them. Then things will start rolling. Until now everything has been suspended, hanging in mid-air, but hopefully, by the end of the year, we will have an effective government.

Q. What would make you go back?

A. To be truthful, the government has not done anything against me personally. They have not withdrawn my passport, seized my assets, or blocked my bank account. It would be dishonest of me to say that I'm a victim of persecution; it's not true, I'm self exiled. Theoretically, I could go back whenever I liked. But I

Q. When you wrote for international newspapers, did you encounter any prejudices because of your background?

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helps. We should also have a more realistic view of change; change is often slow.

Q. Many parts of the occupied Arab territories are beyond access to journalists.

A. Anybody can go to the occupied territories. I was there myself last year and I wrote a book about the intifada called *The Cauldron*. There are a lot of limitations for television crews, but when you are there, you can go around them. In Israel there is censorship when sending news and pictures outside the country because they read everything before you send it, but that isn't too much of a problem because you can write your articles once you're out of the country. The important thing is to be there, on the spot, and that's not prohibited.

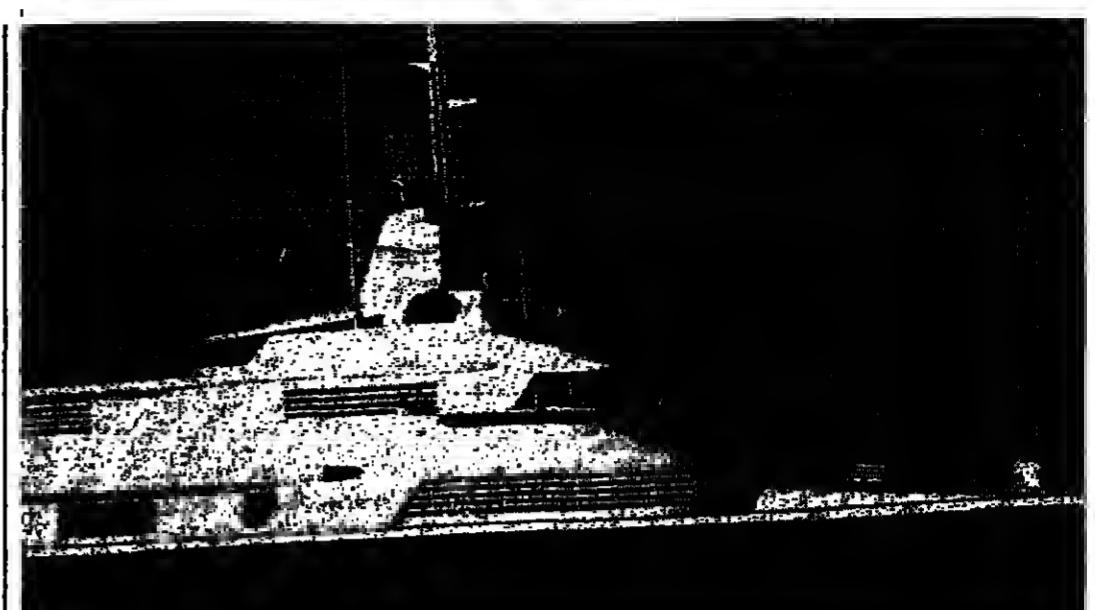
Another thing that I've learned is that the impact the media have is not necessarily an immediate impact. It takes a number of years for public opinion to be reshaped. Many topics that nobody talked about a few years ago have become central political issues now, like the environment, Third World poverty, and drugs. These problems have existed for many years but it is the media that have refocused attention on them. Today, these issues can no longer be ignored.

The media also play a key role in keeping the power of governments limited. They act as a counterpower, in favour of the people. It's very difficult today for Western governments to restrict activities of trade unions, for example, because of the potential outcry of the media. There has been, in the past twenty years, a redistribution of cards, as far as power is concerned. The power of the government has decreased and the power of the press, trade unions, parliament, political parties and associations has increased. How long this will last, nobody knows, but in the United States, that trend is coming to an end. I think that in the next twenty years, there will be a gradual increase in the power of the government again, because the American government has lost too much power, and it must regain some back. In Europe, on the other hand, in the coming years the inclination will remain toward less power for the government.

Q. What have been the high points in your career as a journalist?

A. When I was in Iran, I wrote a series of articles about the Arab World. I feel I contributed a lot to an understanding by the Iranian people and their leaders of Arabs and Arab issues. During the time of the Shah, I travelled extensively between Iran and the Arab countries. I described them, interviewed their leaders, and helped bring them closer to the Iranian public. It helped Iranians understand their neighbours better because even though Iranians and Arabs are neighbours, they have virtually no contact. I think it was beneficial for the Iranians to read about Arabic countries instead of reading of all the time about the West. Iran had been looking to West for the last three hundred years. It did not realise that it is part of Asia. We thought that we were accidentally there, and separated from the West by foreigners, like Arabs and Turks.

During my career I also interviewed many world leaders, including Deng Xiaoping, Saddam Hussein, and Indira Gandhi but the one that I enjoy the most was my interview with King Faisal. I was very pleased that I had a chance to talk with him. I met a man with clear views and vision. He also had strong beliefs and convictions, a rarity among politicians and leaders. We had a very interesting discussion about the future of Islam and how Islam should cope with the modern world. He is a leader for whom I have a lot of respect. That interview with King Faisal was one that I enjoyed immensely — Arab News.



Did you know that...?

By Michel Delabarre

The Establishment Petitjean

company have specialised in the

problems of public lighting and

their field of competence stretch

right to those huge pylons-masts

which light up aerodromes, big

crossroads, ports, marshalling

yards, etc. A curious fact is that

this firm which is not very well

known to the public is the top

company in its field in the world

and supplies products to many

various countries. The firm is

situated in Troyes in the Aube

department.

From the times when ships

were made of wood and used

sails, the Lancelins have been

rope makers from generation to

generation. This firm provides

all kinds of ropes in all kinds of

materials and of such a high

quality that seafarers know the

value of their products. Their

reputation is the greatest in the

area of racing and there is not a

Iran amends 5-year plan, needs \$16 billion financing

NICOSIA, Cyprus (Agencies) — Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani Sunday outlined major changes in a plan to revive the country's sluggish economy said another \$16 billion would be needed to finance them.

Rafsanjani said the mining, oil, gas, petrochemical, cement, rubber and paper industries would receive "special attention" as Iran strives to rebuild its war-bred installations.

Speaking at his first press conference since he formed his new government last August, he said his ministers had revised a previous five-year economic plan put together by the last government.

Major changes in the plan hiked projected expenditures from some \$96 billion over the next five years to \$112 billion, Rafsanjani said.

The press conference was broadcast on Tebaran radio and monitored in Nicosia.

The five-year economic plan, launched at the start of the Iranian year in March, is designed to revitalise the country's stagnant economy.

After eight years of war which tapped an annual \$10 billion of the country's resources, many of Iran's industries have fallen into disrepair due to neglect. Others have to be updated with new technology in order to remain competitive.

Iran relies on oil and gas exports for 95 per cent of its foreign exchange.

But its leaders are crucially aware that stagnation or dropping oil prices require boosting oil and other non-oil exports to feed Iran's 50 million population. Growing at one of the fastest rates in the world, the population will double by 2010 at present rates.

Rafsanjani said his changes will be financed by boosting non-oil exports three-fold over the next five years.

"We must boost non-oil exports from the present \$3 billion to \$9 billion" over five years, Rafsanjani said.

He said that part of these earnings would be injected back to the private sector in order to make it flourish.

Rafsanjani's bold new changes are opposed by a powerful radical faction within the leadership which believes in maintaining the government's stranglehold on the

economy.

But Rafsanjani, leader of a so-called pragmatic faction which wants to ease the government's tight grip and resuscitate private industry, sees the private sector as the key to his economic plans.

In his press conference, he said that segments of government-owned industry would be sold to the private sector, and that "priority will be given to workers and factory personnel who want to buy the plants."

In what is his most radical policy, he announced that private industry and crucial parts of state-owned industry will be given foreign exchange at preferential rates of around 600 rials to the dollar, to buy vitally needed raw materials and technology.

Because of a shortage of foreign currency, private companies have been unable to buy dollars at the official, artificially inflated rate of around 70 rials to the dollar.

Businessmen were forced to resort to the black market, where rates hovered around 1,000 rials and up.

By adopting a more realistic exchange rate, the government hopes to drive down the black-market rate and eliminate distortions in the market.

This could help control runaway inflation. The official inflation rate is 23 per cent, but the real rate is much higher.

In another attempt to boost the dollar supply, new regulations have been introduced whereby Iranian travellers can carry up to \$5,000 in or out of the country without restrictions.

Speaking to reporters, Rafsanjani said some core industries will be given permission to talk with foreign governments and companies to obtain loans that would boost industry and raise the level of technology.

But he said the condition for such foreign-exchange loans was that the "implemented plans must be able to generate the foreign exchange to pay back the loans."

Indicating that Iran may seek foreign loans to establish new

industries, Rafsanjani said that "additional financing will come from foreign resources."

Foreign borrowing has been a hot issue anathema to the radicals. They believe it will compromise Iran's independence and push the country into a cycle of borrowing to repay previous loans.

A strong indication that Iran will seek foreign borrowing came when Economy and Finance Minister Mohsen Nourbakhsh said last month that Iran will resume payments to the International Monetary Fund, which it suspended about two years ago.

Rafsanjani added that further financing from his plans will come from boosting tourism.

Friendly separation

Meanwhile, Iran and Mitsui and Company have agreed to wind up the giant Iran-Japan Petrochemical Company (IJPC) project, which was damaged and stalled by the Iran-Iraq war, a Mitsui spokesman has said.

He said Mitsui's president, Koichiro Ejiri, and Ahmad Rahgozar, managing director of Iran's National Petrochemical Company, agreed late Sunday in Tehran that the 18-year-old project would be cancelled.

Iran and Japanese companies have invested 600 billion yen (\$4.23 billion) in the 50-50 joint venture, located at the northern Gulf port city of Bandar Khomeini.

The two sides agreed on how to wind up the project, including

financial compensation, which cannot be fully revealed now, the spokesman said. Iran will make some repayments to Japanese banks while Mitsui and other Japanese companies will make larger payments to Iran.

Mitsui, which heads the Japanese consortium in the project, officially asked Iran to wind it up 10 months ago. Work on the complex was stalled by the Islamic revolution in Iran in 1979 and the Iran-Iraq war from 1980 to 1988.

The complex was 85 per cent complete when war broke out but the site was hit by Iraqi air raids and the equipment has suffered from neglect in recent years, making the project very costly to finish.

The Mitsui spokesman said the Japanese partners in the project would apply to the Japanese government for trade insurance, which at most would cover 166.2 billion yen (\$1.17 billion) of the 233.9 billion (\$1.65 billion) they provided in investment and loans.

Japan's ministry of international trade and industry originally discouraged Mitsui from pressing too hard to withdraw from the project for fear of impacting Japan's relations with Iran, industry analysts said.

But a ministry official said: "We welcome Mitsui's attitude of friendly separation. Judging from their misfortune, IJPC partners seem to have had no choice but to abandon the project."

The Mitsui spokesman said the

Pollution concerns threaten lower oil income for Arabs

ABU DHABI (R) — Arab oil producing states are worried that growing environmental concerns in the world may hit their oil revenues.

Abdul Aziz Al Wattari, the secretary general of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), said such concerns have led to calls for "rationalisation of energy consumption."

"This will raise big problems for OAPEC producers, and increase international pressure at a time when they do not yet have a joint approach on how to tackle the issue," Wattari told Reuters in an interview.

He said OAPEC was working on the problem and would send a delegation to Brussels in December headed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) oil minister Mana Said Al Oteiba to discuss the matter with the European Community.

OAPEC's 10 members earn about \$60 billion from the production of around 14 million barrels of oil and they sit on 60 per cent of world crude reserves, enough to carry them well into the next century as producers.

Meanwhile, OPEC Secretary-General Sabroto said OPEC experts would meet independent oil

producers early in 1990 to discuss the impact of environmental concerns on the oil market.

"We have agreed to continue accusations on the long and medium term oil situation, and the common steps we should take on environmental issues," Sabroto told reporters after meeting President Suharto during a visit to his native Indonesia.

Sabroto said the environment was very important at this time because developed countries were moving fast on the issue while oil producers, had taken no steps.

Producers are beginning to express fears that environmentally aware industrial nations will switch away from oil to cleaner energy sources such as liquified natural gas.

"Oil producers need to cooperate and take a common stand on environmental issues if we meet with oil consumers in the future, because it will affect the future of oil," Sabroto said.

He said an exact time and venue for the meeting, which follows an OPEC/non-OPEC meeting last May, had yet to be fixed.

"But cooperation with independent producers is very important because they share world production with OPEC 50-50," Sabroto said.

A group of non-OPEC producers, who has just wound up a two day meeting in Kuala Lumpur, also called for cooperation with producers from OPEC countries in a bid to stabilise the market.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Innab meets Saudi official

AMMAN (Petra) — Industry and Trade Minister Ziad Innab Monday discussed with the Saudi under secretary of ministry of finance and national economy for international cooperation affairs, Usama Al Faqih, means of further developing bilateral cooperation. Innab stressed the Jordanian government's interest in developing scopes of cooperation with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in all fields. Innab voiced the government's appreciation to Saudi Arabia for its financial support to Jordan to help it face the difficult situation which Jordan has recently passed through.

Jordan hikes agricultural exports

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has exported 393,000 tonnes of fruit and vegetables during the first nine months of this year, compared with 290,000 tonnes during the same period in 1988, thus achieving an increase of 103,000 tonnes, a report in Al Dustour Arabic daily said Sunday. In September alone, a total of 41,400 tonnes of vegetables and fruit were exported mainly to the Arab Gulf countries. The exports to Saudi Arabia accounted for 45.5 per cent, followed by Kuwait which imported 26.9 per cent and the United Arab Emirates which ranked third, as it received 17.5 of Jordan farm exports. However, a total of 24.1 tonnes of fruit and vegetables were exported to Europe, according to the Agricultural Marketing Corporation.

Saudi food firm offers shares

NICOSIA (R) — A new Saudi Arabian food company has offered over one million shares to the public at 100 riyals (\$26.67) per share. Riyadh-based Food Products Company said in an advertisement in Saudi Arabian newspapers that it would be capitalised at 200 million riyals (\$53.33 million). The company would market its products of canned food inside and outside the kingdom. Its founders, Saudi nationals, would own 48 per cent of the shares while the public could subscribe for the balance of 1.035 million before the closing date of November 7.

Iraqi date exports may bring \$35 m

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq expects to export dates worth about \$35 million this year, more than double last year's total, Agriculture and Irrigation Minister Abdallah Bader Danouk has said. Danouk said most of the palm groves in the region of the Shatt Al Arab waterway of southern Iraq, scene of some of the heaviest fighting in the war, were destroyed. The country currently has about 22 million palm trees, most of them in central and southern Iraq, compared to a pre-war figure of more than 30 million, he added. Danouk said current date production was about 353,000 tons, representing 22 per cent of world production. He added that Iraqi date exports account for about 70 per cent of world demand. Iraq sold off state-run date-processing plants last year to the private sector for 50 million dinars (\$150 million) in a privatization programme to revitalise its war-battered industry.

Singapore sharply curbs smoking ads

SINGAPORE (R) — Singapore's parliament has passed a bill extending a ban on cigarette advertisements to cover private premises, posters and hoardings. Cigarette advertisements were already banned on radio and television and in newspapers. Acting Health Minister Yeo Cheow Tong said smoking was largely responsible for the deaths of about 2,600 Singaporeans each year, or seven each day.

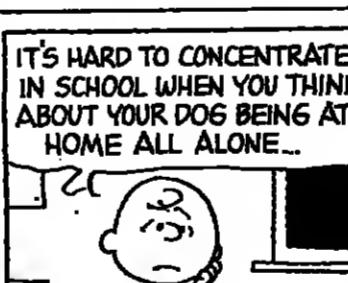
Iran reports vast gas reserves

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has found vast reserves of natural gas in the southern province of Fars, the national news agency IRNA has said. The agency quoted local parliamentary representative Reza Hussini as saying the fields, around the town of Lamard, extended 80 kilometres in length and 12 kilometres across. IRNA said the deposits would supply gas for 200 years. "According to oil ministry experts the deposit is the third biggest in the country... it contains 8,000 billion cubic metres of gas in its western wing alone," Hussini said. Iran has the world's second biggest natural gas reserves after the Soviet Union.

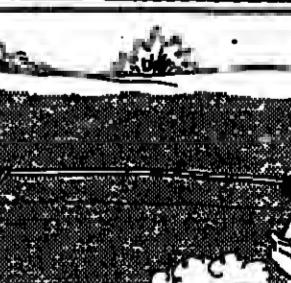
S. Korean economy picks up again

SEOUL (AP) — The South Korean economy is showing signs of recovery after a 16-month slump, but improved exports and more investment are needed to continue the upswing, a government agency has said. The Economic Planning Board said economic indicators had been rising and the slump that began in February 1988 started to give way to recovery in July. The South Korean economy was hit by labour unrest, rising costs and a slump in exports as the won currency appreciated. The board said industrial production rose three per cent in July from the same period a year earlier, while operating rates hit 77.9 per cent, the highest level since February. Construction permits and domestic machinery orders were up, indicating a recovery, the board said. A 0.9 per cent increase in exports in July, compared to the same period last year, failed to last as exports fell 0.3 per cent in August, the board said. But letters of credit for the coming months indicated figures would improve, it said.

Peanuts



Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

Lost + Found



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U.S. dollars Canadian dollar Deutschemarks Dutch guilders Swiss francs Belgian francs French francs Italian lire Japanese yen Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns Danish crowns U.S. dollars

One ounce of gold 362.90/363.40

Monday, October 9, 1989

Central Bank official rates

U.S. dollar 1.5825/35

Pound Sterling 1.1742/52

Deutschmark 1.8858/65

1.2185/95

1.6440/50

39.64/67

6.3930/80

1379/1380

142.50/60

6.4730/80

6.9775/825

7.3450/500

One ounce of gold 362.90/363.40

French franc 97.3 98.3

Japanese yen (for 100) 437.4 441.8

Dutch guilder 291.8 294.7

Swedish crown 96.3 97.3

Italian lire (for 100) 45.1 45.6

Belgian franc (for 10) 156.7 158.3

U.S. dollar 622.0 628.0

Pound Sterling 996.9 1006.9

Deutschmark 329.5 332.8

Swedish crown 378.6 382.4

French franc 97.3 98.3

Japanese yen (for 100) 437.4 441.8

Dutch guilder 291.8 294.7

Swedish crown 96

Sports

Pressure builds for Madrid

Reuters

REAL MADRID Manager John Toshack knows how his beleaguered Barcelona counterpart Johan Cruyff has felt recently following Real's 3-1 defeat by their arch-rivals in the Nou Camp Stadium Saturday.

The pressure on the Spanish League champions increased still further Sunday when local rivals Atletico Madrid stole their top-of-the-league position by beating Zaragoza 2-1 at home.

To make matters worse, Real's Spanish international striker Emilio Butragueno looks unlikely to play in the European Cup second round first leg tie at AC Milan on October 18 after spraining an ankle.

"There are sprains that take 10 or 20 days to cure. We'll try to get him ready for the Milan match but that's in 10 days' time and we'll be hard pushed," said Real's team doctor.

Cruyff, meanwhile, took the opportunity to deny there had ever been a crisis for the Catalan club this season. "There is no crisis and there has been no crisis except for you, the media," he told reporters after the match.

Atletico Madrid coach Javier Clemente was, not surprisingly, in more relaxed mood, but said

he would like his team to win by wider margins so that they could play less defensive football.

"I'd like to see us win 2-0 some time so that we can enjoy it more," he said.

"We always have the fans on the verge of a nervous breakdown and the players were a little frightened as well," said Clemente, who has no doubts about Atletico's ability to win the league. "Milan — disaster" ran the headlines in Italy's Gazzetta Dello Sport newspaper after AC Milan's 1-0 league defeat against newly-promoted Cremonese.

Milan, still missing four key players including Ruud Gullit, slumped to seventh place in the standings with a meagre eight points from eight games in their worst start to the season for six years.

European footballer of the year Marco van Basten, making a comeback after six weeks' absence following a knee operation, reported no problems with his fitness afterwards but was more concerned with his team's performance.

"This was a Milan best forgotten," he said. "I was used to playing in a certain position and the balls used to arrive for me there. But now the balls aren't arriving and I'm there waiting in vain."

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

GORÉN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF

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PUTTING UP A FALSE FRONT

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

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♥ A Q

♦ Q

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Latvian front votes for full independence

RIGA, Soviet Union (Agencies) — Members of a Latvian nationalist movement have voted overwhelmingly to change their goal from local autonomy to outright independence from the Soviet Union.

After discussing Sunday a 126-point platform including that goal, the 1,074 delegates at the second annual congress of the People's Front of Latvia approved it with only one opposing vote.

The programme is aimed at setting the stage for a declaration of independence at an unspecified date.

The congress also called for the demilitarisation of Latvia and for closer cooperation with the other two Baltic republics, Lithuania and Estonia.

"We now have the backbone of the programme," said front spokesman Janis Jurkens. "We are still speaking about a transition period, and our most important task is to shorten that transition."

Other delegates said they would take economic and political measures to achieve their final aim, including forming independent economic ties with other Soviet republics.

But Jurkens said: "We have to explain that all this will not happen tomorrow."

The programme of the 200,000-strong Latvian front is the most radical issued in the three formerly independent republics, who have hitherto trodden a cautious path towards their aim of gaining greater control over their own affairs.

Popular Front groups founded in the past year have gained a large following in all three republics and have largely surpassed the local Communist parties in political authority.

Heightened nationalist sentiment culminated in August in a demonstration of up to two million people denouncing the 1940 incorporation of the republics into the Soviet Union as part of a Nazi-Soviet pact carving up Eastern Europe.

Gorbachev supported a decision in principle last July by the Soviet parliament to grant the republics a large measure of independence in conducting their economic affairs from 1990.

The front was winding up its session with the election of a chairman, widely expected to be current incumbent Dainis Ivars, a Communist Party member representing a broad moderate element.

Delegates said he was certain to fight off a challenge from Imants Kalnins of the radical national independence movement, which claims 10,000 members.

Ivars' wing wants to take part actively in elections to the republican parliament expected in February or March and to implement its programme through legislation.

Front official Juris Rubenis later called for an end to bitter

infighting within the organisation.

"Unity is more important than points of order. All Latvia and all the region is watching," Rubenis, a priest, told the session.

Some moderates have expressed fears that the Latvian programme could upset what Baltic officials said was Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's tacit support for greater autonomy expressed at a meeting with leaders of the republics last month.

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7 die on Colombian bus as new ministers named

BOGOTA (R) — Seven passengers were killed Sunday when a Bogota bus exploded in a fireball, and police said they were probing whether it had been bombed as part of the Colombian drug cartels' war against the government.

The bus exploded on a highway north of the city centre about an hour after President Virgilio Barco swore in three new government ministers in a move to end a cabinet crisis linked to the war with the drug traffickers.

Bogota Mayor Andres Pastrana said in a radio interview that the bus disaster, in which three of the dead were children, was apparently caused by a fire sparked by a mechanical failure.

But a Bogota police spokeswoman said first reports indicated the explosion had apparently been caused by a firebomb. National police also said they were investigating whether it had been caused by explosives.

Police at national headquarters initially described the explosion as caused by a bomb but later said this was uncertain.

They said they were investigating to see if the incident was related to the wave of 64 bombings that have rocked Bogota since the drug lords declared war on Aug. 24 after President Barco launched his anti-narcotics crackdown.

A fire department official said the bus driver heard an explosion on the bus before flames engulfed the vehicle.

A senior policeman on the scene said the three children who died appeared to be aged between four and six.

Barco named three new ministers to overcome a cabinet crisis sparked two weeks ago with the resignation of Justice Minister Monica de Greiff, who had received death threats.

He named Carlos Lemos Simmonds as interior minister, Roberto Salazar Maurique as justice minister and Roberto Daniels as communications minister.

Lemos Simmonds said after taking the oath of office that the government ruled out dialogue with drug traffickers.

"The response to whatever proposal from drug traffickers was, is will be 'no,'" he said.

Lemos Simmonds confirmed to reporters that the government had received a proposal from drug traffickers that had been delivered to an ex-Interior Minister Joaquin Vallejo Arbelaez.

Vallejo said the traffickers had proposed in September 1988 to give up the drug business in exchange for an end to extradition for trial abroad.

"The plain truth of this situation is that the government received a proposal from Vallejo Arbelaez and rejected it," said Lemos Simmonds.

Vallejo Arbelaez said in a television interview that the traffickers wanted to agree with the government to give up the drug trade because they considered themselves wealthy enough.

He said in a separate interview on RCN radio Sunday that he delivered their proposal in September of 1988.

He said he was investigating to see if the incident was related to the wave of 64 bombings that have rocked Bogota since the drug lords declared war on Aug. 24 after President Barco launched his anti-narcotics crackdown.

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